

Holmes
Montreal July 12 1844

Dear Sir

While I felt gratified at the attention manifested towards me in presenting to me your Botanical Text Book, I could not avoid experiencing some regret inasmuch as I inferred you considered me still an active pursuer of the Science — That not being the case I am unable to reciprocate by making a return in kind and must confine myself to thanking you for your undeserved favor — I have little doubt you have become acquainted with me as a follower of Boty, thro' our friend Dr Lacey but that Gentleman & I have been so long without inter-communication that he cannot give right information regarding me — In fact, thro' at one time passionately devoted to the subject, I was obliged to relinquish all attention to it & for the last twenty ^{years} may be said to have been totally estranged from it — In consequence I am become

quite rusty & often find it difficult to recollect the
name of a Plant. — You will now understand why
I said I felt some regret. — It was because I feared
you might have anticipated some scientific ad-
vantages from me which could only be disappointed —

Botany is not cultivated by any one that I
know of unless Florists & Gardeners may be dubbed
Botanists — Our Institutions are still too young
to afford encouragement to such objects but it
will come in time & we are improving rapidly —

I remain

with much Respect
Yours.

Asa Gray M.D. A. F. Holmes



1874

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